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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Kenji HORI

Group Art Unit: 2873

Application No.: 10/032,093

Examiner: M.A. Hasan

Filed: December 31, 2001

Docket No.: 111608

For: OPTICAL COMPONENT THICKNESS ADJUSTMENT METHOD, OPTICAL COMPONENT, AND POSITION ADJUSTMENT METHOD FOR OPTICAL COMPONENT

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the September 26, 2002 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

A. The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,226,128 to Shiozawa. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a method of adjusting an optical thickness in which one of layers of a material which is the same as the material of an optical component, and of a material which has an index of refraction close to the index of refraction of the material of the optical component are added to a surface of the optical component by at least one of vapor deposition and vapor growth, so that optical thickness is increased. In other words, the claimed invention provides a use of vapor deposition and/or vapor growth for adjusting thickness of an optical component.

Shiozawa, on the other hand, relates to manufacturing and evaluation methods for a light-transmitting optical component that is used in an optical system with a light source having a wavelength below 200nm. Shiozawa does not relate to a method of adjusting the thickness of an optical component as recited in claim 1.

In addition, the Office Action states that col. 1, lines 14-24 and col. 4, lines 2-5 of Shiozawa teach this feature. However, the cited sections do not teach or suggest the use of vapor deposition or vapor growth to adjust the thickness of an optical member. The Office Action does not provide any explanation as to how the cited sections allegedly teach the claimed features. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is patentable over Shiozawa.

Claim 3 recites, *inter alia*, a method of adjusting the position of an optical component in which a layer of material is adhered to an optical component by at least one of vapor deposition, plating, and vapor growth to adjust the position at least one surface of the optical component. The Office Action states that col. 1, lines 14-24 and col. 4, lines 2-5 of Shiozawa teach this feature. However, the cited sections do not teach or suggest this feature. The Office Action does not provide any explanation as to how the cited sections allegedly teach the claimed features. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 3 is patentable over Shiozawa.

Claims 5 and 7 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claims 1 and 3 from which they respectively depend, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 is respectfully requested.

B. The Office Action rejects claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Shiozawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,418,182 to Ford. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 recites a method of adjusting the optical thickness of an optical component in which a surface of an optical component is etched to reduce an optical thickness.

As described above, with respect to claim 1, Shiozawa does not relate to a method of adjusting the thickness of an optical component. Further, Ford relates to a process for fabricating a diode laser. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine these references in such a way as to result in the claimed invention.

Moreover, the Office Action states that Fig. 1 and col. 4, lines 49-51 of Ford teach this feature. However, Ford merely teaches to etch appropriate regions on a substrate 10 to create ridges 46. Ford does not teach or suggest etching a surface of an optical component to reduce an optical thickness. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is patentable over Shiozawa and Ford.

Claim 4 recites *inter alia*, a method of adjusting the position of an optical component in which a surface of an optical component is etched to adjust the position of at least one surface thereof.

As described above, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Shiozawa and Ford. In addition, the Office Action again states that Ford discloses this feature at Fig. 1 and col. 4, lines 49-51. However, as described above, Ford merely teaches that appropriate regions on a substrate are etched to create ridges. Ford does not teach or suggest that a surface of an optical component is etched to adjust the position of at least one surface thereof. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 is patentable over Shiozawa and Ford.

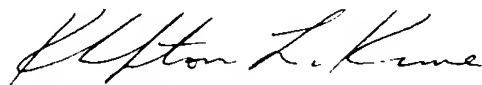
Claims 6 and 8 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claims 1 and 3 from which they respectively depend, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 4, 6 and 8.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 - 8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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